

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0668

S E C R E T COTONOU 0605

FOR AF/W FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, XX, DM
SUBJ: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS

REF: STATE 295560

1. IN COURSE OF COTONOU'S INSPECTION, INSPECTORS RECOM-
MENDED MODIFICATIONS OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES CITED REFTEL.
WE SUGGEST THAT GOALS/OBJECTIVES BE ALTERED AS FOLLOWS:

I. MODERATION OF BENIN'S HOSTILE ATTITUDE, PARTICULARLY
TOWARD THE WEST:

-- EXPLAIN OUR POSITION ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES IN SUCH A
MANNER AS TO ENCOURAGE BENIN TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE RADICAL
LEFT TO GENUINE NON-ALIGNMENT.

-- INSIST THAT BENIN TREAT FOREIGN VISITORS AND RESIDENTS,
INCLUDING DIPLOMATS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ACCEPTED INTERNATIONAL
PRACTICE AND THE VIENNA CONVENTIONS.

-- SUPPORT ACTIVITIES OF US CITIZENS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

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-- ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN A CORDIAN ATMOSPHERE IN OUR CONTACTS
WITH OFFICIALS OF THE GPRB DESPITE OUTSTANDING DIFFERENCES.

-- EXPAND CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE TO BRING THE MAX-
IMUM EXPOSURE OF BENINESE TO WESTERN POINT OF VIEW.

-- ENCOURAGE BENIN TO COOPERATE WITH MODERATE AFRICAN COUNTRIES

THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY THE ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICA (ECOWAS).

II. IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS:

-- FOLLOW-UP BENINESE ASSURANCES TO U.S. THAT THEIR NEW CONSTITUTION INDICATED AN IMPROVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS.

III. PURSUIT OF HUMANITARIAN GOALS:

-- MAINTAIN A MODEST ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND PEACE CORPS INPUT IN BENIN TO BENEFIT THE POOREST SEGMENTS OF SOCIETY.

2. RATIONALE FOR MODIFICATIONS: WHILE WE SHOULD BE ENCOURAGING MODERATION OF BENIN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD WEST, WE SHOULD ALSO SEEK TO LESSEN ITS HOSTILITY TOWARD MODERATE AFRICAN REGIMES. (THE WORD "HOSTILE" APPEARS MORE PRECISE THAN "RADICAL"). FORMER GOAL II WOULD BE ELIMINATED AND SUBSUMED UNDER GOAL I AS A BENEFIT ARISING FROM A MORE MODERATE ATTITUDE, WHILE FORMER GOAL IV WOULD BE CONSIDERED A MEANS TO ENCOURAGE MODERATION RATHER THAN AN END IN ITSELF. FORMER GOAL

III CONTAINS TWO GOALS/OBJECTIVES: (A) IMPROVEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS, AND (B) PURSUIT OF HUMANITARIAN GOALS. THESE WOULD BE DIVIDED AND LISTED AS NDW GOALS
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II AND III RESPECTIVELY. GIVEN OUR LIMITED INTERESTS IN BENIN WE BELIEVE THAT THREE GOALS ENCOMPASS OUR RANGE OF ACTIVITIES.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.
THOMPSON

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NNN

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